

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are all the claims pending in the present application, claim 2 having been canceled as indicated herein. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-8 and 12-14 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As a preliminary matter, claim 11 is objected to based on the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants submit that the changes suggested by the Examiner, on page 2 of the Office Action, were made in the previous Amendment dated September 19, 2007. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner look closely at the September 19th claim amendments and note that there is a strike-through through the “s” in “members” in claim 11, line 3, and there is a strike-through through the “s” in “surfaces” in claim 11, line 4¹. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the claim objections.

Applicants believe that the present case is now in condition for allowance as the allowable features of previously pending claim 2 have been incorporated into claim 1, and allowable claims 3 and 12 are now in independent form. Dependent claims 4-11 and 13-17 are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

¹ Applicants note that the Examiner may have overlooked the “strike-through” marks since they are sometimes difficult to see.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/769,793

Attorney Docket No.: Q79163

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

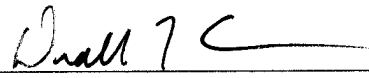
Respectfully submitted,

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